

When we look at a current map of Africa, we are looking, for the most part, at national boundary lines that were formed by the arbitrary dictates of Western European nations during their primacy as colonial power brokers in the 19th century. Those lines were, essentially, simple longitude or latitude lines that had no relevancy, at all, to the social, cultural, or tribal structures that had existed on those lands for centuries. Suddenly, the simple, clean-cut decisions of 19th century Europeans have become, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, far more complex than any diplomats in London, Paris, Berlin, or even Washington, could have imagined in those relatively distant times.

Darfur is serious. Clearly, it is not the only place on this planet with unspeakable atrocities and unbelievable conditions. People who once farmed wheat in western Afghanistan are now facing desperate consequences due to the confluence of floods and drought. There are countless people—women, children, and the infirm—in camps like Dadaab in eastern Kenya who are not only trying to cope with the political and military chaos streaming out of Somalia but also the natural calamity of floods bringing food shortages, waterborne disease, and other human heartbreaks to our attention. We cannot ignore these other tragedies. Darfur is not the only place in need of assistance.

But there remains Darfur. It is etched in our conscious because of the pictures we see on television, the stories we read in the paper, and more importantly, what we know to be true. The facts are before us.

The crisis in Darfur is an outgrowth of a decades-long struggle within Sudan extending back nearly to 1956 when Sudan gained independence from Britain and Egypt, resulting in an estimated 2 million deaths due to war and famine in the last two decades alone. Millions more have been displaced. In February of 2003, the conflict spilled into Darfur with tragic consequences when local rebel militias determined to challenge the Khartoum Government on grounds related to discrimination of ethnic groups in the region. The central government's response was to unleash a harsh policy against the people of Darfur, including use of armed militias against civilians. The U.S. Congress and the Bush administration pronounced these actions in 2004 as genocide.

In 2005, condition in Darfur only got worse. Attacks by the Khartoum Government-backed jingawit against civilian populations continued unabated. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan announced that abduction of national staff of humanitarian relief NGOs had reached alarming proportions. In June of 2005, the International Criminal Court formally began an investigation into charges of atrocities in Darfur. And in recent months, reports indicate that atrocities in Darfur are peaking again.

Slowly, the African Union began exercising limited authority in Darfur. Further attempts by the United Nations to introduce peacekeeping forces or a similar presence met with continuing resistance from the Khartoum Government. Just last week, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union adopted a proposal concerning a hybrid force for peacekeeping in Darfur. The African Union will extend its mission for another 6 months beginning January 1, 2007, in order to provide additional time for clarification and implementation of how a hybrid force will be composed and deployed. Progress may be seen in these actions, but it moves very slowly.

To date, since the Darfur crisis began in 2003, an estimated 450,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million displaced. In addition, some 220,000 Sudanese have been forced into refugee camps in neighboring Chad, and an additional number are in refugee camps in Kenya. Even though the Bush administration has declared that acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur, such declaration has not resulted in any major shift in U.S. policy. A shift should occur. We must intensify pressure on the Khartoum Government regarding its policies toward Darfur, and we must firmly pursue the Addis protocols that were achieved last week.

As the current ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, and during the tenure I hope to continue in the next Congress, I know that humanitarian food assistance is a very large piece of the solution to the crisis in Darfur. Under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Subcommittee is an array of programs of importance to food insecurity—what in this country we once called hunger—such as Public Law 480 and reimbursements to the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

In fact, a little more than 1 month ago, my appropriations staff was sent on a mission to Sudan which would have brought them to within a few kilometers of the border of South Darfur. Unfortunately, the El Bashir government in Khartoum refused to issue them the appropriate visas, but they were able to participate with the World Food Program on an air drop of food over Southern Sudan that, at least, gave them a firsthand experience of the hardships in that country. They also met with refugees from Darfur in the U.N. camp at Kakuma in northwestern Kenya, where the original “Lost Children” of Sudan found shelter in the early 1990s. While at Kakuma, my staff was presented with the following written request by Darfur refugees:

OCTOBER 13, 2006.

The current situation in Darfur was not acceptable and every day getting worse and we Darfurians we have worried and we don't know how our future will be and what are you planning for us.

MUBARAK SULEIMAN,
Darfur Committee.

I have watched, and I will continue to watch with keen interest the devel-

opments in this part of the world and take to heart the charge that these things shall not occur “on our watch.” To the extent that I can continue to direct food aid programs in the coming Congress, this part of the world, and all the other parts in dire need, will have my full attention, and I will seek the support of fellow Senators when the time comes to make emergency assistance available.

HONORING HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a former congressional colleague and a personal friend, Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage.

Just weeks ago, our Nation lost a true American patriot in a tragic car accident in central Nevada. On October 2, 2006, Helen Chenoweth was riding in her daughter-in-law's car, cradling her baby grandson in her arms. The car was overturned, and she and her grandson were thrown from it. Helen held her grandson so tightly that he came away with minor injuries—but she was not so lucky.

I take this time to honor Representative Chenoweth and her contributions to Idaho and this Nation, as some may not be aware of how much she gave of herself.

Helen was born in Topeka, KS, on January 27, 1938. She graduated from Whitworth College in Spokane, WA, and started her lifelong career of public service. She ran her own medical and management consulting firm, which led to her job as manager at the Northside Medical Center in Orofino, ID. In 1975, she was appointed as the first woman to serve as the state executive director of the Idaho Republican Party. Soon after, she became the chief of staff and then campaign manager for long-time friend, First District Congressman Steve Symms. A close friend described the Chenoweth-Symms team as a “fun and inspiring team to work with.”

After establishing herself in Idaho as a trusted leader, she won the Republican nomination to Idaho's First Congressional District in 1994. A strong advocate for term limits, she pledged to serve no more than three terms, if elected. Helen Chenoweth won the 1994 November election, beating the Democratic incumbent by nearly 11 percent. She was known as one of the “true believers” in the 1995 Republican freshman class and was one of the most conservative. She even made conservative grammatical choices, insisting on being called “Congressman Chenoweth,” instead of Congresswoman.

Helen easily won reelection two more times and was asked by many to run for a fourth term, but having pledged to serve three terms, she was true to her word and retired in 2000. Idaho Governor Jim Risch is quoted as saying, “When the six years were up, she could have easily been reelected, she could

have easily carried on, but she said 'no, I made that promise and I'm going to stick with that promise.'"

I was always impressed by her unwavering ideological positions, even if sometimes they were unpopular. I learned that she was driven by a clearly defined and articulated philosophy that allowed her to stand strong in the middle of a storm of criticism and persist in forcing changes for the betterment of Idaho and the Nation.

She was a strong advocate for the American people and a true believer in the balance of powers. During the Balkan crisis in the 1990s, she argued for the involvement of the legislative branch, writing, "Congress played no role in defining those political aims, which means that the American people—in whose name Congress is empowered to act—were not permitted to play any role in the decision to commit our Nation to war." She was known for quoting the Founders when giving her arguments, pulling her colleagues back to our Nation's constitutional roots if they were veering in another direction. On this same issue she quoted Alexander Hamilton writing, "It is the province and duty of the Executive to preserve to the Nation the blessings of peace. The Legislature alone can interrupt those blessings, by placing the Nation in a state of War."

Helen Chenoweth was a champion for property rights and constitutional government. She fought hard for the rights of property owners and against the heavy hand of Federal regulation and taxation that affected family farms, ranches, and businesses. In Idaho she was known as a "true environmentalist" who worked to preserve Idaho's natural beauty while also balancing the rights and needs of humans. Her passion and hard work demonstrated her belief in the inalienable rights of all citizens, and she fought to keep them protected by the U.S. Constitution.

On September 21, 2000, she was awarded the first "Friend of American Freedom Award" by the National Center For Public Policy Research and the Committee For a Constructive Tomorrow. The award honored Congressman Chenoweth's "distinguished record of defending the United States against environmental treaties, United Nations programs and other global policies that pose a threat to the Nation's sovereignty." Particular appreciation was given for her work on the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act, which would require the executive branch to seek Congressional approval before designating any U.S. landmark as a world heritage site. The director of the National Center's Environmental Policy Task Force said of Helen, "Congressman Chenoweth-Hage has been one of the leading champions of U.S. sovereignty and the U.S. Constitution during her 6-year tenure in Congress. The 'Friend of American Freedom Award' represents our profound thanks to the Congressman for her valiant

work defending constitutional liberties."

While I served as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, she served as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. I enjoyed this opportunity to work together on land management issues such as the Roadless Initiative. We shared a passion to protect our great western lands. Much of her work survives in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

Helen was a strong advocate for women and families. She supported funding for women's health and also for family health care. Many women looked up to her as a woman politician who earned every bit of respect she received and held her ground in an environment predominately of men. She was known as a true feminist who never asked for special treatment because of her gender.

Even after her retirement from Congress she worked tirelessly with her husband, Nevada rancher Wayne Hage, in the lawsuit Hage vs. U.S. Wayne had purchased his ranch in 1978 and testified that over the years Federal agency interference made it nearly impossible to run a livestock operation and ultimately resulted in the taking of his ranch. Wayne and Helen's court victory was a triumph for all private property owners.

Helen Chenoweth-Hage was not only a great politician; she was also a loving wife and mother and a loyal friend. Her strong Christian faith inspired many, guided her throughout her life, and served as a base on which she built her philosophy. Among her many endearing qualities were her unfailing graciousness, charm, and her warm smile. She will be sorely missed, not only by her children and other family members, but by legions of friends, colleagues, and admirers.

Let me end by quoting her daughter Meg Keenan, who spoke for many of us when she said: "Helen was the most amazing, gracious person I ever had the privilege to know. She was fearless in life, and I know she welcomes the opportunity to be in the presence of God the Father."

2005 COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep distress about the human rights violations reportedly committed in the Philippines. The U.S. Department of State's 2005 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in the Philippines, released in March 2006, is a very troubling account and, at times, a cynical report on the current state of Philippine human rights problems. The Report cites the Philippine National Police as the worst abuser of human rights in the country, and it describes numerous violations, including extrajudicial

killings, disappearances, and physical abuse of suspects and detainees. It cites instances of torture, arbitrary arrests, trafficking of persons, and harassment of human rights personnel and political activists.

In light of the report's troubling findings, I respectfully urge my colleagues to review this document and recognize the significance of these extremely serious transgressions.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to discuss today the gross misconduct of the Australian Wheat Board in its dealings with Saddam Hussein under the U.N. Oil for Food Program and to introduce legislation regarding the potential impact AWB's actions may have had U.S. farmers.

Last week, a commission in Australia led by former Supreme Court Justice Terence Cole released a detailed report documenting extensive corruption, fraud, and deceit on the part of the Australian Wheat Board, commonly called AWB. The report showed that AWB paid more than \$221 million in under-the-table kickbacks to the Hussein regime to secure exclusive, illegal access to the Iraqi wheat market. I applaud Sir Terence Cole and his commission for the thorough and comprehensive manner in which they have dealt with this issue.

As chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I conducted an investigation for almost 3 years into abuses of the U.N. Oil-for-Food Program. During my investigation, I held numerous hearings and issued several detailed reports that exposed significant graft associated with the program.

In particular, my subcommittee exposed corruption involving public officials from the United Kingdom, Russia, France and the United Nations, along with corrupt transactions by companies in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere around the world.

However, when my subcommittee considered investigating the AWB, we faced insurmountable legal challenges that prevented us from initiating the kind of exhaustive review that this case required. Unlike other foreign entities that voluntarily cooperated with the subcommittee's efforts, AWB declined to cooperate with the subcommittee by providing documents or witnesses. Given that AWB is a foreign entity, the subcommittee could not compel its cooperation through subpoenas.

Moreover, the U.N.'s investigators at the Independent Inquiry Committee issued a report in October 2004, which suggested that it would examine AWB's transactions along with the other deals executed under the program. Unlike the subcommittee's efforts, that inquiry would have complete access to U.N. files and unfettered access to documents from relevant Iraqi ministries and would likely have access to the files and banking records of AWB.